

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IMHOTEP JORDAN, Jr.,
aka JOHN JORDAN, CDCR #C-71742,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JOHN A. HOUSTON,

Defendant.

Civil No. 11-2518 MMA (JMA)

ORDER:

**(1) DISMISSING CIVIL ACTION
FOR FAILING TO PAY FILING
FEES AND FOR FAILING TO
MOVE IN FORMA PAUPERIS**

AND

**(2) AS FRIVOLOUS AND
MALICIOUS PURSUANT
TO 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b)(1)**

Plaintiff, currently incarcerated at Calipatria State Prison, in Calipatria, California, and proceeding pro se, has filed a civil action entitled “Demand for Contractual Oath of Office Duties” [ECF No. 1], in which he seeks to sue an Article III Judge for various violations of his “contractual oath of office.”¹

¹ Plaintiff’s Complaint is identical to several other cases, all filed just a few days prior to this one, purporting to sue other Article III Judges and a United States Magistrate Judge of this Court and all asserting the same frivolous and malicious claims. *See also Jordan v. Sammartino*, S.D. Cal. Civil Case No. 11-2404 BEN (WVG); *Jordan v. Lewis*, S.D. Cal. Civil Case No. 11cv2403 BEN (NLS); *Jordan v. Huff*, S.D. Cal. Civil Case No. 11cv2405 BEN (WVG). A court “may take notice of proceedings in other courts, both within and without the federal judicial system, if those proceedings have a direct relation to matters at issue.” *Bias v. Moynihan*, 508 F.3d 1212, 1225 (9th Cir. 2007) (quoting *Bennett v. Medtronic, Inc.*, 285 F.3d 801, 803 n.2 (9th Cir. 2002)). Plaintiff has not paid the \$350 civil filing fee in any of these, or any prior civil case he has filed in the Southern District, and has thus far managed to avoid 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g)’s “3-strikes” bar by submitting his complaints

1 **I. FAILURE TO PAY FILING FEE OR REQUEST IFP STATUS**

2 Any party instituting a civil action, suit or proceeding in a district court of the United
 3 States, other than a writ of habeas corpus, must pay a filing fee of \$350. *See* 28 U.S.C.
 4 § 1914(a). An action may proceed despite a party's failure to pay only if the party is granted
 5 leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* ("IFP") pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a). *See Andrews v.*
 6 *Cervantes*, 493 F.3d 1047, 1051 (9th Cir. 2007); *Rodriguez v. Cook*, 169 F.3d 1176, 1177 (9th
 7 Cir. 1999). However, Plaintiff has not prepaid the \$350 filing fee required to commence a civil
 8 action; nor has he submitted a Motion to Proceed IFP. Therefore, the case must be dismissed
 9 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a).

10 **II. INITIAL SCREENING PER 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b)**

11 Pursuant to the Prison Litigation Reform Act ("PLRA"), 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, the Court
 12 is obligated to review complaints filed by anyone "incarcerated or detained in any facility who
 13 is accused of, sentenced for, or adjudicated delinquent for, violations of criminal law or the terms
 14 or conditions of parole, probation, pretrial release, or diversionary program," "as soon as
 15 practicable after docketing" and regardless of whether the prisoner prepays filing fees or moves
 16 to proceed IFP. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a), (c). The Court must sua sponte dismiss prisoner
 17 complaints, or any portions thereof, which are frivolous, malicious, or fail to state a claim upon
 18 which relief may be granted. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b); *Resnick v. Hayes*, 213 F.3d 443, 446-47
 19 (9th Cir. 2000).

20 While Plaintiff's action is practically indecipherable, he apparently seeks to sue a United
 21 States District Judge demanding that he abide by his "contractual oath of office" which requires
 22 "defending and support the rights vested to me by the way of the United States Constitution and
 23 the Constitution of the State of California as a free born living breathing flesh and blood god
 24 created sovereign sentient being." (Compl. at 1.)

25 A complaint is frivolous "where it lacks an arguable basis either in law or in fact."
 26 *Neitzke v. Williams*, 490 U.S. 319, 325 (1989). Here, there is no question that Plaintiff's suit

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 28 unaccompanied by motions to proceed *in forma pauperis*. *See e.g., Jordan v. Cardenas*, S.D. Cal. Civil
 Case No. 11-1152 DMS (NLS); *Jordan v. Andersen*, S.D. Cal. Civil Case No. 11-1153 IEG (JMA);
Jordan v. Borem, S.D. Cal. Civil Case No. 11-1154 BEN (NLS); *Jordan v. Drake*, S.D. Cal. Civil Case
 No. 11-1155 AJB (MDD); and *Jordan v. Coronado*, 11-1156 BTM (MDD).

1 lacks any arguable basis in law, and is therefore frivolous under § 1915A(b)(1). And, to the
 2 extent Plaintiff alleges any facts at all, they appear “fanciful,” “fantastic,” and “delusional” and
 3 are clearly baseless. *Id.* at 328. In fact, Plaintiff’s pleading, when considered in light of his
 4 pattern of frivolous submissions in this district, may further be classified as “malicious” insofar
 5 as it appears to lack good faith and “suggest[s] an intent to vex the defendants or abuse the
 6 judicial process.” *See Crisafi v. Holland*, 655 F.2d 1305, 1309 (D.C. Cir. 1981) (a complaint
 7 may be inferred to be “malicious” if it suggests an intent to abuse the judicial process by re-
 8 litigating claims decided in prior cases; or if it threatens violence or contains “disrespectful
 9 references to the Court”); *accord Aston v. Probst*, 217 F.3d 844, 844 (9th Cir. 2000) (table
 10 disposition).

11 For these reasons, the Court dismisses the entirety of Plaintiff’s Complaint as frivolous
 12 and malicious pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b)(1).

13 **III. CONCLUSION AND ORDER**

14 For the reasons set forth above, the Court hereby:

15 (1) **DISMISSES** this action sua sponte without prejudice for failing to pay the \$350
 16 filing fee or file a Motion to Proceed IFP pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1914(a) and 1915(a).

17 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

18 (2) Plaintiff’s Complaint is **DISMISSED** as frivolous and malicious pursuant to 28
 19 U.S.C. § 1915A(b)(1). Moreover, because the Court finds amendment futile, leave to amend is
 20 **DENIED**. *See Cahill v. Liberty Mut. Ins. Co.*, 80 F.3d 336, 339 (9th Cir. 1996) (denial of a
 21 leave to amend is not an abuse of discretion where further amendment would be futile); *see also*
 22 *Robinson v. California Bd. of Prison Terms*, 997 F. Supp. 1303, 1308 (C.D. Cal. 1998) (“Since
 23 plaintiff has not, and cannot, state a claim containing an arguable basis in law, this action should
 24 be dismissed without leave to amend; any amendment would be futile.”) (citing *Newland v.*
 25 *Dalton*, 81 F.3d 904, 907 (9th Cir. 1996)).

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1 (3) Finally, this Court **CERTIFIES** that any IFP appeal from this Order would not be
2 taken “in good faith” pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3). *See Coppedge v. United States*, 369
3 U.S. 438, 445 (1962); *Gardner v. Pogue*, 558 F.2d 548, 550 (9th Cir. 1977) (indigent appellant
4 is permitted to proceed IFP on appeal only if appeal would not be frivolous).

5 (4) The Clerk of Court shall close the file.

6 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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8 DATED: November 1, 2011



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10 Hon. Michael M. Anello
United States District Judge

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